

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-Final Office Action mailed December 1, 2005. Claims 1-12, 14, 16, 17, 19-24, 28, and 29 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) (hereinafter referred to as '548). Claims 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548. Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ". Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" in further view of "TCP/IP Networking Concepts". Finally, Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,446) (hereinafter referred to as '446).

During a telephone interview with Examiner on December 19, 2005, possible amendments to the claims were discussed to avoid the current rejections. Examiner expressed concern that the current scope of the claims would include passwords and other such identifiers that could be input through a keyboard, mouse, or the like. Applicants and Examiner discussed physical identifiers associated with cards, similar to dependent claim 19, being incorporated into the independent claims. Applicants have taken the comments made by Examiner into consideration in preparing the current amendments.

Examiner states in the Office Action that the Applicants have failed to claim two physical identifiers that are "unique, separate, and distinct" as argued in the previous amendment.

The rejections presented by Examiner are substantively the same rejections found in the Office Action issued on June 17, 2004.

In response to these rejections, Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 28, and 29 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and Claims 13, 15, 18, 25-27, and 30-33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to

continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) (hereinafter referred to as '548).

In response to this rejection and others, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:
 - retrieving, through a management system, a current set of identifiers from a network device having at least two cards;
 - said identifiers comprising at least two physical identifiers and at least one logical identifier, wherein at least one of said at least two physical identifiers is associated with each of said at least two cards; and
 - authenticating an identity of the network device using the at least one of said current set of identifiers at least two physical identifiers; and
 - automatically updating said management system to reflect changes made to any of said at least two physical identifiers that were not used to authenticate said network device.

As discussed with Examiner, Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) do not disclose the retrieving of a set of identifiers associated with card(s) of a network device. Rather, the '548 reference discloses a method of providing users with a temporary IP address. Sistanizadeh et al. do not disclose using at least two physical identifiers, wherein at least one physical identifier is associated with each card of the network device. Sistanizadeh et al. do not disclose authenticating the network device using either of the two identifiers. Finally, Sistanizadeh et al. do not disclose updating the management system to show changes to physical identifiers that were not used in authenticating the network device.

Similar amendments have been made to, and arguments apply to, independent Claims 6, 12, and 28, as well as their dependent claims.

In light of the amendments to the claims, and the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that Sistanizadeh et al. no longer anticipate the claims in their current form. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 7 and 29 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548.

In response to this rejection and others, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:
retrieving, through a management system, a current set of identifiers from a network device having at least two cards;
said identifiers comprising at least two physical identifiers and at least one logical identifier, wherein at least one of said at least two physical identifiers is associated with each of said at least two cards; and
authenticating an identity of the network device using ~~the~~ at least one of said current set of identifiers at least two physical identifiers; and
automatically updating said management system to reflect changes made to any of said at least two physical identifiers that were not used to authenticate said network device.

As discussed with Examiner, Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) do not teach the retrieving of a set of identifiers associated with card(s) of a network device. Rather, the '548 reference teaches a method of providing users with a temporary IP address. Sistanizadeh et al. do not teach using at least two physical identifiers, wherein at least one physical identifier is associated with each card of the network device. Sistanizadeh et al. do not teach authenticating the network device using either of the two identifiers. Finally, Sistanizadeh et al. do not teach

updating the management system to show changes to physical identifiers that were not used in authenticating the network device.

Similar amendments have been made to, and arguments apply to, independent Claim 29, as well as its dependent claims.

In light of the amendments to the claims, and the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that '548 no longer obviate the claims in their current form. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 7 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 8 and 9 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ". In light of the amendments to the claims, and the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" no longer obviates the claims in their current form. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 10 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" in further view of "TCP/IP Networking Concepts". In light of the amendments to the claims, and the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" in further view of "TCP/IP Networking Concepts" no longer obviate the claims in their current form. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 22-24 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Finally, Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,446) (hereinafter referred to as '446).

In response to this rejection and others, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:
retrieving, through a management system, a current set of identifiers from a network device having at least two cards;
said identifiers comprising at least two physical identifiers and at least one logical identifier, wherein at least one of said at least two physical identifiers is associated with each of said at least two cards; and
authenticating an identity of the network device using the at least one of said current set of identifiers at least two physical identifiers; and
automatically updating said management system to reflect changes made to any of said at least two physical identifiers that were not used to authenticate said network device.

Ichimi et al. do not teach the retrieving of a set of identifiers associated with card(s) of a network device. Ichimi et al. do not teach authenticating the network device using either of the two identifiers. Finally, Ichimi et al. do not teach updating the management system to show changes to physical identifiers that were not used in authenticating the network device.


In light of the amendments to the claims, and the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that Ichimi et al. no longer obviate the claims in their current form. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,446) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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